



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

made a journey South-West from Lake Tsad, to within 150 English miles of Yacoba, in the Fellah country, and returned; while Dr. Barth went South-East, to the kingdom of Bagirmi, whence he returned on the 20th of August last. Both journeys were successful, and may lead to important results. Yacoba is situated on a branch of the Tchadda, which is itself a branch of the Kawāra, or Niger; so that in that direction communication was almost opened from the centre of the continent to the sea-coast. "Dr. Barth collected a large mass of valuable information respecting the history, geography, and ethnography of Bagirmi and Waday,—which he has embodied in an account addressed to the Foreign Office." He also "collected copious vocabularies of the languages of Lógène, Bagirmi, and Waday,—and less complete vocabularies, each containing about two hundred words, of not less than eight other languages." Dr. Barth's explorations have thrown much light upon the water-courses of that part of Africa on the East, South-East and South of Lake Tsad; and, when last heard from, he had obtained information reaching to the basin of the Nile, for he was told, on authority which he could rely upon, of a route leading to "*the banks of a very considerable river flowing westward*, so large that they could not make out persons standing on the other side, and which they were unable to cross."

The latest date at which the Expedition had been heard from, when the foregoing was written, was August 21, 1852. The *London Athenæum*, No. 1322, gives us information down to the 12th of last October. On the 27th of September, Dr. Overweg fell a victim to his devotion to the enterprize in which he was engaged, at the early age of thirty years. But Dr. Barth, undaunted, was determined to follow up the results already obtained. Dr. Vogel, a distinguished astronomer and botanist, was on his way to join the Expedition, most happily, on the very day the news of Dr. Overweg's death was received. There is reason to hope, therefore, that these important explorations will not be given up. Among the communications last received is a map of Central Africa from 4° to 15° N. L. and 8° to 23° E. L., of which Prof. Petermann says: "I have no hesitation in pronouncing this map as the most comprehensive and complete that has ever resulted from the travels and researches of any single African traveller."

E. E. S.

VI. UNITED STATES EXPEDITION TO JAPAN.

In November last, the U. S. steam-frigate Mississippi sailed from Annapolis, bearing the flag of Commodore Perry, as commander of

the United States Expedition to Japan. The whole squadron, consisting of several steam-frigates, and other vessels of war, was expected to rendezvous at Hongkong. About this time, probably, the Expedition is approaching its destination; and it will soon be decided what are to be its results. We earnestly hope that, without any dishonor to our national flag, through abuse of power, it may contribute to enlarge our knowledge of that great Empire, all we know of which, at present, only excites the desire to know more. The intentions of the Government are clearly set forth in the following letter from President Fillmore to the Emperor of Japan, from which an extract was published last spring in our public prints.

“MILLARD FILLMORE,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

“GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND: I send you this letter by an envoy of my own appointment, an officer of high rank in his country, who is no missionary of religion. He goes by my command to bear to you my greeting and good wishes, and to promote friendship and commerce between the two countries.

“You know that the United States of America now extend from sea to sea; that the great countries of Oregon and California are parts of the United States, and that from these countries, which are rich in gold, and silver, and precious stones, our steamers can reach the shores of your happy land in less than twenty days.

“Many of our ships will now pass in every year, and some perhaps in every week, between California and China; these ships must pass along the coasts of your empire; storms and winds may cause them to be wrecked on your shores, and we ask and expect from your friendship and your greatness, kindness for our men and protection for our property. We wish that our people may be permitted to trade with your people; but we shall not authorize them to break any laws of your empire.

“Our object is friendly commercial intercourse, and nothing more. You have many productions which we should be glad to buy; and we have productions which might suit your people.

“Your empire has a great abundance of coal; this is an article which our steamships, in going from California to China, must use. They would be glad that a harbor in your empire should be appointed to which coal might be brought, and where they might always be able to purchase it.

“In many other respects, commerce between your empire and our country would be useful to both. Let us consider well what new interests arise from these recent events which have brought our two countries so near together, and what purposes of friendship, amity, and intercourse they ought to inspire in the breasts of those who govern both countries. Farewell.

“Given under my hand and seal, at the city of Washington, the 10th day of
[L. s.] May, 1851, and of the independence of the United States the seventy-fifth.

By the President.

M. FILLMORE.

D. WEBSTER, *Secretary of State.*”

To the American Oriental Society, this Expedition is the more interesting as one of its own members is included in it, the Rev. George Jones, U. S. N., who accompanies the Commodore as chaplain, whose knowledge of the world, gathered on long absences from his native country in our national vessels, and scientific and literary accomplishments, justify the expectation that the Society will hereafter receive important communications from him in answer to a series of inquiries addressed to him by a committee appointed for the purpose, previous to his departure.

E. E. S.

VII. UNITED STATES EXPEDITION TO THE PACIFIC.

We extract from a carefully prepared article in the *National Intelligencer* for November 18, 1852, the following paragraphs relative to the design and equipment of this Expedition, now soon to take its departure, under Commander Ringgold.

"Its objects will be to survey portions of the China and Japan seas, the route between China and California, and the North Pacific ocean in the region of Behring's Straits. It may probably also ascend the Sea of Tartary, to make some examinations needed for the advantageous prosecution of commercial enterprises in those comparatively unknown waters.

"In every particular this Expedition will be thoroughly prepared for the work before it.

"In the scientific departments the same circumspection is manifested. The astronomical instruments are obtained through the National Observatory at Washington, and are of the very best quality. . . . The means of collecting information in natural history have been exceedingly well cared for, even to the most minute particular.

"We understand that this Expedition will probably consume three years in the accomplishment of its varied and important work, and in returning to the Atlantic coast. In this time it will traverse the waters of many of the hitherto unfrequented regions bordering upon the Pacific ocean. On the one side, are the coasts of California and Oregon; on the other, the regions of Kamtschatka and the islands of Japan; in the north, to a very high degree of latitude, the scenes of our adventurous whalers; and in the south, the countless islands of the ocean, so imperfectly known to the civilized nations of the earth, yet many of them inhabited by human beings whose condition challenges our pity, and whose characteristics invite the scrutiny of the learned and the curious.

"One of the most remarkable, and to us most interesting island groups in the world is the Sandwich Islands. They form the natural stopping-place for all the vessels plying between China or Japan and the coasts of California. They are already the established resort of our whaleships, *six hundred* of which have already taken harbor there within a single year, and not a few of them, with the meagre facilities now existing, transferring their cargoes at these ports. In the lapse of but a few years more, they will constitute the great commercial depot of many nations. Through them will pass the tidings from China that will be thence received as news in London some twenty or thirty days later.